

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of : Giovanni COTTICELLI, et al.

Filed : Concurrently herewith

5 For : PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION ....

Serial No. : Concurrently herewith

10 Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 30, 2004

15 PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the specification as follows: